

City of Jackson

400 Commerce Street
Jackson, Alabama 36545

Mayor
G. Richard Long

City Administrator
Jesse Miller

City Clerk
Betty Powell

City Council

Daron Bolen
Dwight Goolsby
Eddie Huggins
Eldridge Jackson, Jr.
Jane B. James
Paul South

July 14, 2011

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: AT&T and T-Mobile's proposed merger, WT Proceeding No. 11-65

Dear Commissioners:

Jackson, Alabama is a steel town. The Thyssen-Krupp steel plant down the road in Calvert has attracted a number of suppliers and ancillary services to Jackson. It is something for which we are grateful considering the difficult economy much of the U.S. has endured for the last four years.

From what I have learned, however, the steel industry (like many old-line industries) is continuing to evolve its production and management practices because of the growing power of the Internet and high-tech networks. Those companies that want to be excellent in all aspects of their operations are not just using information in offices. Increasingly, they are deploying people out in the field with wireless devices capable of the same tasks that the most powerful personal computers are capable of.

I sense that many of the companies in our area want wireless networks capable of moving information as quickly as their "hard-wired" ones do. Moreover, if they don't have it soon, they will relocate to areas that advertise those advantages, such as the touted "4G" capability.

To put it another way, in order for Jackson to be able to keep global companies as part of its business "citizenry," it must offer the networks these firms need. That is why I was glad to hear the announcement several months back about the T-Mobile merger with AT&T. It is my firm conviction that Jackson will not be on that list of towns to receive a 4G network unless companies like AT&T and T-Mobile can merge their operations and strength to deploy technology on a wider scale.

A town like Jackson needs every advantage it can get, especially in this economy. I ask you to approve the companies' request to merge so that new networks can be built quickly here and in other small towns around Alabama.

Sincerely,



Richard Long
Mayor

CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell